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10. East Timor

Doc. A2-143/88

RESOLUTION

on East Timor

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the resolution on the situation in East Timor adopted by the European Parliament on 10 July 1986 (Doc. B 2-591/86)(1),

- having regard to the resolution on the illegal and illegitimate occupation of East Timor by Indonesia, unanimously adopted by the ACP-EEC Joint Assenbly in Lisbon on 1 October 1987 (OJ No. C 50, 22.2.88, p. 51),

- having regard to the following motions for resolutions:
  - motion for a resolution tabled by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE and Mr KUIJPERS on the reign of terror established by Indonesian troops in East Timor (Doc. B 2-927/85),
  - motion for a resolution tabled by Miss BROOKES on the violations of human rights in East Timor (Doc. B 2-1146/85),
  - motion for a resolution tabled by Mr van der LEK on East Timor (Doc. B 2-1150/85),
  - motion for a resolution tabled by Mr David MARTIN and Mrs BUCHAN on East Timor (Doc. B 2-1218/85).
  - motion for a resolution tabled by Mr TELEKAMPER and others on the imprisonment of Antonio Gonçalves, a citizen of East Timor, in Indonesia (Doc. B 2-1510/87),
- having regard to the report of the Political Affairs Committee (Doc.),

A. Whereas the territory of East Timor was invaded and occupied on 7 December 1975, illegally annexed in July 1976, and has since been forcibly occupied by Indonesia and whereas this has provoked the genocide of one third of the population and widespread economic and social damage,

B. whereas this occupation has been condemned not only by the United Nations General Assembly Security Council and the conference of non-aligned nations but also by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and many other international organizations of a political, humanitarian or religious nature,

C. whereas human rights are being violated by: arbitrary imprisonment, deporation, forced resettlement, ill-treatment, torture, summary executions, restrictions on the movement of persons and on postal communications, violation of personal privacy, the absence of the right of association and of freedom of expression and restrictions on freedom of religion,

D. whereas the cultural identity of the people of East Timor is being violated, namely through the imposition of a foreign language and the elimination of national language, the official dissemination of cultural values outside the traditions and history of East Timor, the destruction of family and social structure, transmigrations carried on as political displacement of populations,

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(1) OJ No C 227, 10.7.1986, p. 124

E. whereas freedom of the Catholic Church to exercise its pastoral mission is severely limited and a continuous pressure on priests and faithful is exercised by the Indonesian authorities in spite of the official subsidies granted to the Church,

F. whereas the people of East Timor are not yet able to exercise their right of self-determination and their attitude to Indonesia's presence can only be expressed through a referendum,

G. whereas since the occupation there has been a continuous armed resistance to the colonial annexation by Indonesia and such a resistance has been forcible because of the support of the overwhelming majority of the population, as is shown by the deployment of an army of 20 000 soldiers from Indonesia in the territory,

H. whereas, under Article 297 of its Constitution, Portugal remains bound by the responsibilities incumbent upon it under international law to promote the independence of East Timor,

I. aware of the unanimous concern of the Portuguese people for the self-determination of East Timor, as expressed by the efforts of many groups and commissions, as reported in the Portuguese media and as declared repeatedly by the Portuguese Parliament,

J. whereas, since the accession of Portugal to the European Community, the institutions of the Community bear an even greater responsibility than in the past for the people in East Timor, as was confirmed by the declaration in May 1988 of the President-in-Office of the Council,

K. whereas a number of EEC Member States continue to allow the export of military equipment to Indonesia without regard to its illegal occupation of East Timor and its continuing military operations in that country,

1. Condemns the occupation of East Timor by Indonesia and confirms the right of self-determination of the people of East Timor;

2. Defends the right of the people of East Timor to maintain, develop and affirm their cultural, linguistic and religious identity derived from their own history;

3. Condemns the Indonesia policy of denying to independent foreign visitors the opportunity to examine freely conditions in the country and to investigate reports of human rights violations;

4. Calls on the Indonesian Government to carry out the promised opening-up of East Timor before the end of 1988;

5. Requests the Indonesian Government to allow international aid and human rights' organizations to come to East Timor and to give them complete freedom of movement;

6. Calls on the Indonesian Government to permit free movement within East Timor and to grant people the right to enter and leave the area;

7. Condemns the continuing violation of human rights in East Timor by Indonesian occupation forces and by paramilitary and civil organizations under the control of the Indonesian authorities;

8. Urges the Indonesian Government to comply with the international provisions on human rights in East Timor;

9. Calls on the Member States of the European Community to undertake political action with a view to securing a withdrawal of Indonesian troops from East Timor, as an essential precondition for ensuring respect for the fundamental rights of the people and for the exercise of the right of self-determination, including the right to independence, and to support the efforts of the UN Secretary General aimed at achieving these objectives;

10. Calls on the UN Secretary-General, in his efforts to find a solution, to consult not only with Portugal and Indonesia but also with the representatives of the people of East Timor, the 'Convergencia Nacionalista';

11. Calls on all governments in the Community to halt the sale of military equipment to Indonesia until the illegal occupation of East Timor is brought to an end;

12. Requests the Council to take measures aimed at reaching an agreement of cease-fire and enabling a referendum to be held after a transitional period, to be defined by the interested parties, with the people being allowed freedom of choice on the future of East Timor;

13. Expresses the wish that Portugal, as the 'administering power' , under the provisions of international law and the Portuguese Constitution, should be allowed to play the active role falling to it to guarantee the effective exercise of the right of self-determination of the people of East Timor and supports the efforts made by the Portuguese authorities in the directive of concrete and viable, internationally accepted, solutions;

14. Urges the Foreign Ministers meeting in European political cooperation to maintain a concerted diplomatic action in order to guarantee the exercise of the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination and to establish contact with all parties involved in the conflict, including representatives of the East Timor community and to report to Parliament on the progress of its initiatives;

15. Calls on all the EEC institutions to bear in mind the present colonial situation in East Timor and the terms of this resolution when considering relations between the EEC and the ASEAN countries;

16. Requests the Commission to take into account the situation in East Timor in its contacts with the Indonesian authorities;

17. Urges the Commission, in cooperation with the Portuguese authorities and international competent aid organisations, to grant adequate and direct aid both in East Timor and in the refugee camps in Portugal and Australia;

18. Requests the Commission to give a progress report within six months;

19. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, UN organizations, the conference of non-aligned nations, the Government of Indonesia and the Government of Australia.